

2012	Local Oscillator	April
	<h1>Local Oscillator</h1>	
Mesilla Valley Radio Club		

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Current Events			Table of Contents
Date	Event	Time	Beanfeed 2012 Life Membership Equipment Donations Needed Beanfeed Help Needed More Beanfeed Help Needed Builders Group Picacho Peak and SOTA Meeting Minutes Board Minutes Treasurer Report Club Location Club Officers Membership Application
Sat (with no club meet}	Informal at Village Inn Telshore	6:00 AM	
M, W, F	Informal Wal-Mart (W)	10:00 AM	
Mon	WTRA Swap Net 146.88	8 PM	
Wed	MVRC Net 146.64	6:45 PM	
April 07	Breakfast Club House	8 AM	
April 07	Business Meeting Club House	9 AM	
April 03	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
April 11	Board Meet Club House	7 PM	
April 17	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
April 29	Bean Feed	7 AM	
For more events see http://www.n5bl.org/calendar			



Southwest Antennas & Accessories

More information at <http://swantenna.com>



Beanfeed 2011

The Articles for This Month

Beanfeed 2012

K5XY

The Beanfeed this year is back to its historical time, the last Sunday in April, this year April 29. As usual it will feature tail gate sales, commercial vendors, beans, and beans.

The location is the N5BL club house at the corner of Wilt and Jefferson off the Porter Road exit of US 70 east of Las Cruces. A map and other information is available at the URL <http://n5bl.org.beanfeed.beanfeed.htm>. Tailgating is on the clubhouse grounds. Come early if you want a place. People will be arriving before 7:00 AM. Parking is on the lot across Wilt. The club is borrowing the use of the lot so treat it as your own.

The details of the program are still being worked out but will be similar to last year. No admission or tailgating fees will be charged, There will be lots of goodies for sale, and lots of beans served from about 10:00 AM for about \$5.00. There will also be drinks for sale all during the day, and of course lots of rag chewing. Long before 1:00 PM most of the goodies and people will have left.

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Mesilla Valley Radio Club Life Membership

KE5OFK

As many of you may remember, at one time MVRC issued Life Memberships. These life memberships were usually given to individuals that gave much of their time, equipment, and/or money to MVRC. The Board feels that it may be time to revive this practice for individuals that have been a member in good standing for a minimum of ten years and have made a significant contributions to the MVRC in service to the amateur radio community. Your thoughts on this practice and the criteria needed to be nominated for a life membership are wanted, along with nomination of any deserving individual. You can email me you thoughts and nomination to robhtruitt@zianet.com.

Need Equipment Donation for Beanfeed

AD5LJ

Beanfeed is rapidly approaching and as most of you know, equipment sales represent one of the clubs major sources of income.

The club currently does not have many items to sell. We need equipment donations! If you have excess amateur radio equipment, please consider donating it to the club.

The following types of equipment normally sell quickly at the beanfeed.

Modern ham station equipment (equipment made after 1990) including transceivers, power amplifiers, antenna tuners, desk mics, receivers, and other station accessories.

Modern test equipment.

Vintage receivers (pre 1980).

Long lengths of Coax cable and new connectors.

Working tower computers, laptops, UPS, and flat screen monitors that are less than about 5-years old.

The following types of items do not sell and please don't donate any such items: CRT Monitors, old computers, printers, TV sets, broadcast receivers, radio scanners, electronic components, transformers, satellite dishes, CD/DVD players, commercial transceivers.

Beanfeed Help Needed

KD5SSJ

Terry Angle is the special events chairman, but since his employer (the US Army) has sent him TDY to Sacramento, CA for a duration of up to 90 days he won't be here for the BeanFeed. So I'll jump in and try to take over some of the chores. The one thing that I would have done anyway is to furnish and prepare the beans. The next couple things I need some help with.

On Saturday, April 28, I need at least a couple of you to help prep the food for the next day. This involves chopping garlic, onions, meat and such. The meat is

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browned and refrigerated for preparation early Sunday morning. In past years this takes at most about 3 hours and if we have three or more volunteers even less time.

On Sunday, April 29, I need some help to finish the chili preparation and cooking and then at lunchtime (start serving at about 11:00am) at least a couple of helpers to serve the beans and chili on the plates, I like to get out of the kitchen about this time and turn it over to the volunteers. And after the meal there is the nasty task of cleaning up and putting the clubhouse back in good order for the general meeting to be held on the following Saturday. Please contact me if you have questions and to volunteer email me: radio.kd5ssj@gmail.com or call 382-1917.

More Beanfeed Help Needed

AD5LJ

We need one volunteer to help put price tags on equipment Saturday morning.

We need two volunteers to help set up tables and place equipment on the tables early Sunday morning; Then help clean up after the beanfeed ends.

Need one volunteer to help sell equipment during the beanfeed.

The Builders Group

KD5SSJ

The Builders Group meets on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. This month April 3 and 17 at 7PM at the MVRC Clubhouse. We have been having good discussions about radio construction and electronics in general.

This past month Joe Gray brought in a couple of projects. The first was a RF calibration source, a very simple board with an oscillator on it that provided a fixed frequency and amplitude out. This is particularly used for checking a receiver and S-meter calibration.

He also brought in the kit (first meeting of the month) and the finished project on the second meeting. This was a Power Meter capable of measuring two RF inputs from 100KHz to greater than 450MHz, so it covered all of the Ham bands up to 70cm. Joe did an excellent job of construction and then used some commercial equipment at his disposal to calibrate his new instrument to better than +/- 0.5dBm on all of the Ham frequencies. He was very happy with it's performance and said it cost approximately \$70 for the kit.

If you like this sort of thing come and joins us at a Builders Group get together.

Picacho Mountain and SOTA

W5JG

Picacho Peak has been activated. SOTA lists it as Picacho Mountain, W5/RO-022. It was a bit more challenging that I thought it would be.

You can drive quite close to the Southwest side of the mountain on good pavement. The last mile or so is dirt and although you could probably drive it without 4WD, I wouldn't recommend it. The dirt road

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ends at a large dirt parking area that is enclosed with railings. The trail up the mountain starts there

The trail near the base of the mountain is not marked particularly well, but it has obvious wear. As you go higher up, there are no markings at all and the trail is more difficult to see and follow. The main reasons for this are: the trail runs across mostly rock and desert sand; the trail is very narrow and shallow; there are several other trails intersecting, many of them simply horse trails.

On my way up, I had two confusing incidents. The first is near the base, where the trail divides. There is a thin metal fence post at this junction, which seems to point left. I took the left fork, but soon realized that it was skirting the Northern base of the mountain and was staying too flat. Backtracking to the fork, the right trail took me higher, toward the Western peak. This trail takes you through the saddle between the peaks.

The second confusion was where the trail switchbacks up the main peak. Again, the trail is hard to see. At one point, what appeared to be the main trail started looping around the Eastern side of the main peak. It didn't take long to see that this wasn't correct. Backtracking, I found where the trail continued to the summit, which I reached around 10:30 MDT (just over an hour hiking).

Once on top, I setup within a foot of the benchmark on the summit (a rusted rectangular post, sticking a few inches out of some cement and rocks. Not surprisingly, the summit is nothing but rock. The wind was alternating between dead calm and a very stiff breeze. It made putting up my doublet a challenge.

While I was in a QSO, I was surprised to see a hiker join me on the summit. He took in the view for a few minutes, waved goodbye and was gone. Otherwise, the only other person I saw was the bike rider who I chatted with in the parking lot earlier.

With all the testers on HF, I was having no luck. So I tried 17M. There were several QSO's going on, but when I called them at the end of a QSO, or called CQ on another frequency, I got no replies.

Switching to 2M, I had better luck. I made both FM and SSB contacts and got a total of six. At this point, it was after noon and getting warm, so I packed up and headed down.

With the sun high in the sky, the trail down was even harder to see. Before long, I missed the trail a few times and had to backtrack. Before I was 1/3 down, I lost the trail completely. I knew where I had to go, so I did a combination of bushwacking and following horse trails. Even though I knew they weren't the correct trail, they were going in the direction I wanted to go (at first).

I got to a point where I knew I was headed too far North, but could

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find no way to turn West that was passable to a human (I'm sure WG0AT's pets could have made it). I finally got down to what seemed like the right elevation, where I crossed a wide dirt road with 4WD tracks. It really was a very sandy arroyo.

From this location, I could see Picacho Peak and I knew I was about two miles too far north from where I parked. Actually, I was a bit West of North. For a bit, I followed what looked like a trail going SW, which was the direction I wanted to go. However, it quickly got into multiple little canyons, which looked rather difficult.

By now, I was getting tired (I did still have plenty of water). I managed to raise KC5NDR (Ron) on the local repeater with difficulty. Ron kindly volunteered to drive out in his Jeep and see if he could find that road/arroyo that I had crossed. After giving Ron the GPS coordinates from my phone, I backtracked to the road/arroyo.

I started West on that road, hoping to intercept Ron. Luckily, two dune buggies came by just then. One of the drivers was familiar with the area and confirmed that I was about two miles too far North from the parking lot. I hitched a ride for about a mile to where a different trail intersected the road they were four wheeling on. That trail led me to the dirt road that I had driven in on. At that point, I was about 1/2 mile from my truck.

Meanwhile, Ron was still on his way. As I was walking to my truck, I heard Ron on simplex several minutes before I heard his Jeep. Ron picked me up about 1/4 mile from my truck and gave me a ride the rest of the way. While I rested a bit, Ron and I had a nice face-to-face QSO.

So, thus ends my overly long SOTA hike. To quote Daniel Boone, "I ain't never been lost, but I been a might confused a few times."

To sum up, due to the poor trails, I don't think I'll ever want to hike Picacho Peak again. Unless you are daring and very careful, I wouldn't recommend it to others, either.

For those who I made contacts with, thanks. If you want to do the points thing as a SOTA chaser, note the SOTA designator. If you need the time from my log, email me.

Monthly Business Meeting

KD5UZF

March 3

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am.

George Kopp reported that he still needs people for the Bataan March on the 25th. You should arrive at 4:30am for a 6:30am start. The course should be closed by 8pm.

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There is a new Track Club coordinator and races could be scheduled as soon as May.

Fred reported that the clubhouse station (K5B) will be set up to start at around 4 to 5am and stay up until the end of the march on the 25th.

Cash has no planned classes but will schedule something if there is enough interest. Books are \$29.95 if you purchase one .

Tim Pettybone has a group of 10 who are using the books that we already have on hand.

Terry needs the following for the April 29 Bean Feed

- help organizing
- equipment to sell
- help with parking—see George
- help with cooking / serving

We still need someone to help with communications.

WE REALLY NEED EQUIPMENT TO SELL AT THE BEAN FEED. If you have items you are not using, please consider donating them. This is our primary source of funds to keep the Club in business.

We also need to do advertising for the Bean Feed. If you can help, let Rob or me know,

There will be an ARES exercise event at the airport on March 31.

Zach Libbin (zlibbin@gmail.com) would like some help in getting his Scouts on air.

- April 7, 2012- Joe O. will be available from 10am to 1pm
- April 14 at the QSL Party Cash will help

If you can help with either of these times, let Joe and Cash know.

A motion was made by Tim Pettybone to accept the Budget as published. It was seconded by Bob Bennett. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27am

Monthly Board Meeting

KD5UZF

March 7

Present were;

- Melanie Jack
- Cash Olsen
- George Kopp
- Terry Angle
- Bob Bennett
- Kevin McNelis
- Alex Burr
- Rob Truitt

The meeting was called to order at 7pm

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After the incident at the Clubhouse on Saturday, Rob requested that any e-mails that pertained to Karl Larsen be forwarded to him to be taken care of.

Lloyd Naylor is the new repeater director and can be reached at
Lloyd88012@yahoo.com or 575-37-1028

Alex made a request that the minutes and the treasurers report be submitted for the LO. He would also like to have any information concerning the Club that you think might be of interest and any articles you could submit.

In the past Life Memberships have been awarded to a few members of the club. Being discussed as qualifications, a candidate should:

- be a member for at least 10 years,
- have made significant contributions in both time and/or money.

If you have someone in mind, please let a Board member know.

We are always looking for new members for the club.

George has spoken with the gentleman across the street and we will be able to use his lot at the Bean Feed for parking. As always be careful and respectful of his property.

Some of the topics proposed for monthly presentations were

- Echo link
- equipment show and tell
- Packet
- APRS
- NM Nets
- contests
- Sunspots-propagation
- MRVDA
- Antennas

The Bataan March is now covered.

There is a possible horse race in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm

Treasurer Report

K5KMC

The Treasurer Report is on the next page.

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March 31, 2012

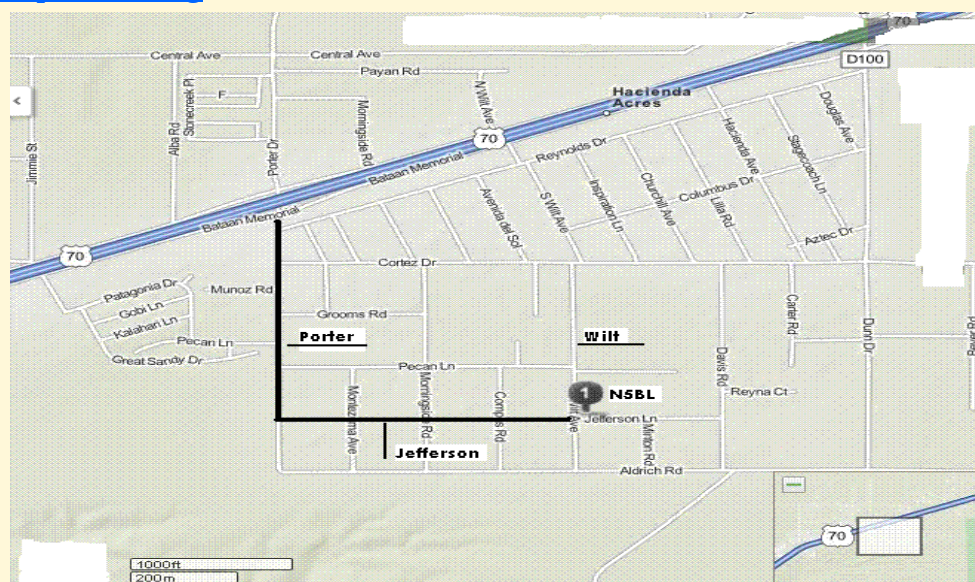
INCOME	2011 BUDGET	2011 ACTUAL YTD
Bean Feed	\$500.00	
Breakfast & Drinks	\$600.00	\$ 75.00
Contributions	\$500.00	
Dues 2011	\$2,100.00	1,110.00
Equipment Sales & Raffles	\$1,600.00	
Other	\$400.00	
Education		
TOTAL	\$5,700.00	\$ 1,185.00

EXPENSES	2011 BUDGET	2011 ACTUAL YTD
Bean Feed	\$400.00	
Breakfast & Drinks	\$600.00	\$ 73.88
Clubhouse	\$500.00	350.00
N5BL Domain Due 09 2016	\$25.00	
Field Day	\$100.00	
Insurance	\$1,050.00	
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	50.00
NM Tax Exempt Fee	\$10.00	
P. O. Box Rent	\$70.00	
Postage	\$75.00	
Property Tax	\$1,100.00	
Repeater Maintenance	\$465.00	
Electricity	\$500.00	170.61
Propane	\$450.00	258.54
Water	\$175.00	65.76
Education & Exams		
TOTAL	\$5,620.00	\$ 968.79

Cash Balance, 01/01/2012	\$ 2,092.00
Income, YTD	1,185.00
Expenses, YTD	968.79
Cash Balance, 09/30/2011	\$ 2,308.21

CLUB INFORMATION

The MVRC Clubhouse is located at the intersection of Wilt and Jefferson. To find the clubhouse, set your destination on your GPS receiver as 32 degrees 22.961 minutes and -106 degrees 41.44 minutes. If you don't own a GPS, take the Porter exit near the firehouse on US 70. It is about 5 miles east from the I 25 interchange. Go south on Porter until you come to Jefferson. There turn left toward the mountains and go to Wilt. You will see the beam on the corner. The treasurer would be delighted to receive your contribution for landscaping and furnishing. More information at <http://n5bl.org>



Officers				
Office	Name	Call	Phone	E-Mail
President	Robert Truitt	KE5OFK	649-4173	robhtruitt@zianet.com
Secretary	Melanie Jack	KD5UZF	202-3363	thedragon@melaniestonejack.com
Treasurer	Kevin McNelis	K5KMC	571-7326	kmcnelis@nmsu.edu
Board Members				
	Terry Angle	AE5XI	640-9669	kf5dns@gmail.com
	Bob Bennett	AD5LJ	382-0148	rpbennett1@comcast.net
	Alex. Burr	K5XY	522-2528	k5xy@arrl.net
	Cash Olsen	KD5SSJ	382-1917	kd5ssj@arrl.net
	Lloyd Naylor	N5MSE	373-1028	lloyd88012@yahoo.com

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JOIN THE CLUB

To join the Mesilla Valley Radio Club, renew your membership, or to support the repeaters, please print, cut out, and complete the form below. Send it with dues (\$35 single, \$45 family per year, add \$10 to receive the newsletter by US mail instead of e-mail) to: Treasurer, MVRC, Box 1443, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

MESILLA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

CALL SIGN(S) _____ FAMILY yes _____ no _____

LICENSE CLASS (E, A, G, T, N) _____

ARRL (Y/N) _____

ARRL VE (Y/N) _____

Would you like to be added to the MVRC reflector? _____

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____ PHONE _____ (OPTIONAL)

INTERESTS – Computer _____ Contests _____ Digital _____ Elmer _____ Emergency Communications _____ Field Day _____

Packet _____ Programs _____ Public Service _____ Publicity _____ RFI _____ Repeater _____ Social _____ License Classes _____

Teach License Classes _____ Volunteer Examiner _____ Other _____

SINGLE \$35 FAMILY \$45